APPENDIX. F.

NOTE ON CERTAIN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE WORK OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT READ BEFORE THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY BY DR. L. C. COLEMAN, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE ON 20TH OCTOBER 1921.

During the Dasara Session of this Assembly in 1920 and 1921, certain questions have come up touching the work of the Agricultural Department. Unfortunately on each occasion, I have been absent and so have not been able to furnish the necessary information to the Assembly. The Dewan-President has kindly permitted me now to make a statement which, I think, will clear up these questions and will at the same time vindicate the work of the Department.

On Saturday last, in connection with the discussion on the *Supari* Cess Fund, a statement was, I understood, made by a member from the Koppa-Taluk that the work of the Department in connection with spraying against Koleroga of *supari* had been a failure. Let me give some figures in connection with this. During the 1919 season, approximately 300 acres of areca were sprayed—the greater part by garden owners themselves with sprayers owned by them. During the 1920 season, approximately 340 acres were sprayed. The increase was not greater, because it had been impossible to get sprayers to supply the demand although they had been ordered long before. During the present season when after a period of six years, we have been able to meet the demand for sprayers, approximately 700 acres were sprayed just twice the area sprayed last year. There are now over two hundred sprayers in the hands of private garden owners, and purchased by them from the Department. I ask this Assembly whether in the light of these figures, it is conceivable that this work has not been a success and has not resulted in very material savings to the *supari* gowers of the Malnad. With regard to Koppa Taluk, I have not the exact figures before me but I know that during the present season 40 acres have been sprayed in that taluk against approximately 10 acres the previous year. When it is remembered that the garden owners pay the whole cost of materials for this work, I think, nothing more need be said.

During the Dasara Session of this Assembly for 1920, in connection with a discussion on the question of the control of Agricultural and other Inspectors, a member of this Assembly made the following statement (I quote the words from the Official Proceedings) :—

" There is absolutely no supervision over the work of these Inspectors. In regard to Agriculture, it is reported that 1,400 demonstrations have been undertaken in the State. Nobody has verified this statement and the report of an official drawing Rs. 30 is generally accepted by the Department."

Another member is reported in the same publication to have stated.—" It is just possible that some big people have got the assistance of these Inspectors, but generally speaking, common people get nothing out of them." Still another member stated—" We know that there is an Agricultural Department in the State and that there are Agricultural Inspectors in the Districts. Beyond this we know nothing. We have no knowledge of their demonstrations."

These allegations if true, are a very serious indictment against the Agricultural Department and against me who am responsible to Government and the people of this State for the conduct of this work.

Let us see what the facts are:—

With regard to the question of supervision, the work of the 23 Inspectors who are stationed in the various districts is supervised in the first instance by the two experienced and responsible officers stationed in Bangalore and Shimoga respectively. These officers visit each district, at least, once in two months and personally inspect a great deal of the work of the Inspectors. In the second place, I endavour to visit every district once a year, and to see something of the work of each Inspector. Each Inspector submits a

fortnightly tour programme, a weekly diary and a monthly summary of work done, to his superior officer. In addition, he submits copies of his tour programme to the Revenue authorities of the district in which he is working and a copy of his monthly summary of work to the Deputy Commissioner of the District. Lastly, he submits a copy of his tour programme and of his monthly summary of work done, direct to me. The Divisional Officers (Deputy and Assistant Director) in turn submit to me a monthly report of the work done in their Division with their own comments upon it.

I ask the members of this Assembly whether in the light of these facts, the statement that there is absolutely no supervision over the work of the Agricultural Inspectors is justified.

The next allegation is that these Inspectors are not really reaching the Agriculturists of the State. One member doubts whether 1,400 demonstrations were held in the course of a year; another states that common people get nothing out of them. Let us again look at the facts.

I have had Districtwar lists prepared, not of the number of agriculturists with whom the Agricultural Inspectors have come into touch, but of those who have taken up some definite line of work as a result of the efforts of the Agricultural Inspectors duirng the past three years. I have these lists with me and should be glad to show them to any member of this Assembly who wants to know who in his district, taluk or, hobli has been co-operating with the Department. I had intended having these lists printed in book form, but found that they would fill an octavo volume of about 600 pages, and that it would probably take many months and a good deal of money to get them printed. I can therefore give you only the totals. The total for the State is 8,475 and embraces names from every taluk and almost every hobli in the State. This list does not contain the names of those who have been engaged in special work, such as the combating of fungus diseases and insect pests and they in themselves number many hundreds. It also does not include the bulk of the members of the 50-odd co-operative societies who are actively engaged in helping the Department in its work. It does not contain the names of thousands who have been indirectly influenced. I ask the members of this Assembly in all soberness is it conceivable that the common people of the State are getting nothing out of the State Agricultural Department ?

If we turn to the question of actual money returns, the Dewan-President has given in his opening address an estimate that the agriculturists of the State have had their revenue increased by ten lakhs during the past year. That estimate is, I may say, a very conservative one. I believe personally that the returns to the agriculturists of the State have been much larger than this.

In conclusion, I may say that I am thoroughly conversant with the agricultural work that is being done in various parts of India and I say with all soberness and sense of responsibility that in no State, Province or Presidency in India, is the general agricultural population better served by the Agricultural Department than are the raiyats of Mysore.